

General Strike in the Punjab

Indian media is reporting that general strike, or "bandh", is taking place throughout Punjab state today, Wednesday, March 28, 2012, particularly in large cities such as Ludhiana, Bhatinda, Amritsar, Rupar, Moga and others. Public transportation, shops and other business establishments are closed and there are reports of people protesting by sitting on the road. Although Punjab police are reporting no signs of violence, U.S. citizens traveling or residing in these areas are strongly encouraged to monitor local news reports and remain cautious when traveling in these areas or to avoid travel there altogether until the strike passes.

U.S. citizens traveling and residing abroad should enroll in the [Smart Travelers Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#). U.S. citizens without internet access may enroll directly at the U.S. Embassy or Consulate at their destination. By enrolling, U.S. citizens make it easier for the Embassy or Consulate to contact them in case of emergency.

Updated information on travel and security may be obtained from the Department of State by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or, for callers outside the United States and Canada, a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. For further information, please consult the [Worldwide Caution](#) and other consular information, including [Country Specific Information](#), for specific countries. These products and the latest international travel information for U.S. citizens are available on the [Bureau of Consular Affairs website](#). Follow us on [Twitter](#) and the Bureau of Consular Affairs page on [Facebook](#) as well. You can also download our free [Smart Traveler iPhone app](#) to have travel information at your fingertips.

U.S. citizens with questions or concerns may contact the American Citizens Services Unit of the Embassy or the Consulates General for further information:

- [The U.S. Embassy in New Delhi](#) is located at Shanti Path, Chanakya Puri 110021; telephone +91-11-2419-8000; fax +91-11-2419-8587. For after-hours emergencies, please call the 24-hour operator at (+91-11) 2419-8000 and ask for American Citizen Services.
- [The U.S. Consulate General in Mumbai \(Bombay\)](#) is located at C-49, G-Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra East, Mumbai 400051 Phone: (22) 2672-4000. For after-hours emergencies, please call the 24-hour operator at (+91-22) 2672-4000 and ask for American Citizens Services. If you are calling from within India, but outside Mumbai, first dial 022.
- [The U.S. Consulate General in Chennai \(Madras\)](#) is at 220 Anna Salai, Gemini Circle, 600006, telephone +91-44-2857-4000; fax +91-44-2811-2027. For after-hours emergencies, please call the 24-hour operator at (+91-44) 2857-4000 and ask for American Citizen Services. If you are calling from within India, but outside Chennai, first dial 044-.
- [The U.S. Consulate General in Kolkata \(Calcutta\)](#) is at 5/1 Ho Chi Minh Sarani, 700071; telephone +91-33-3984-2400; fax +91-33-2282-2335. For after-hours emergencies, please call our primary hotline cell phone (91) 99030 42956. If unable to reach the cell phone, please call (91) (33) 3984-2400 and dial "0" and ask for the Duty Officer.
- [The U.S. Consulate General in Hyderabad](#) is at Paigah Palace, 1-8-323, Chiran Fort Lane, Begumpet, Secunderabad 500 003; telephone: +91 (40) 4033-8300. For after-hours emergencies, please call the 24-hour operator at (+91-40) 4033-8300 and ask for American Citizen Services. If you are calling from within India, but outside Hyderabad, first dial 040-.